

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Applicant's filing of an Appeal Brief on 02/08/2011. The claims 1-2 and 7-26 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 03/11/2011 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Levy (Reg. No. 45,748) on 04/22/2011.

5. The application has been amended as follows:

- cancel claim 14;
- cancel claim 15;
- claim 25, line 1, delete [The computer-readable storage medium], and insert –
“The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium”--;

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- claim 26, line 1, delete [The computer-readable storage medium], and insert –
“The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium”--.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. The claims 1, 2, 7-13 and 16-26 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 18, 21 and 24 define the distinct features, a first peer having a connection to a second peer in a first peer-to-peer network and not having a connection to the same peer in a second peer-to-peer network when the first and second peers are each a member of both networks. The closest prior art, Fox et al. disclosing a layering of peer networks and allow administrator to configure routers for the peer network to control peer access in the peer networks from attack outside of the peer networks, fails to suggest the claimed limitations as mentioned above in combination with other claimed elements. The above features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependent claims 2, 7-13, 16-17, 19-20, 22-23 and 25-26 are hereby allowed.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAU D. LE whose telephone number is (571) 270-7217. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Colin can be reached on (571) 272-3862. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. D. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 2493
04/22/2011

/Carl Colin/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2493